

the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

More than three decades ago, while maneuvering in the rice paddies of South Vietnam, Dave inspired his fellow soldiers with his unique exuberance for life. To be around Dave was fun and challenging, often exciting, yet always comforting. He had the strength to carry those around him through the turmoil with his bright attitude. His valorous and intrepid conduct reflect the utmost credit on him and upholds the noble traditions of the United States Army.

Mr. Speaker, Dave truly represented the best America has to offer. He will be sorely missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 2, 1999*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 1, 1999 I was unavoidably absent and therefore missed rollcall votes 550 through 552. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote 550, "yes" on rollcall vote 551, and "yes" on rollcall vote 552.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF VIRGINIA PRISCILLA WOOTEN

##### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 2, 1999*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and profound sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the life of Virginia Priscilla Wooten of Jacinto City, Texas. After living a remarkably accomplished life that spanned 72 years, Mrs. Wooten passed away on July 1, 1999. She was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, on January 1, 1927.

Even as we mourn her passing, everyone who knew Virginia should take comfort in the truly incredible life she led. We extend our heart-felt sorrow to her loving husband, Hershel Wooten.

Virginia was preceded in death by parents Shirley and Dorothy Bates; sisters Shirley Barbou and Diane Bates; brothers Jack Bates, Lawrence Bates, Aubry Bates, Francis Bates, Edwin Bates and Reginald Bates.

She is survived by husband Hershel Wooten; sons Robert Wooten, Ronnie Wooten and David Wooten; daughters Linda Wooten and Carol Wooten; brother Randy Bates; sisters Irene Poole, Barbara Calef, Sally Brown, Sandra Richards, Ilene Gallo and Joan Bradley; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. If this is the measure of worth in life, Virginia Wooten's friends and family can attest to the success of the life she led.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the Members of the House to join me in paying tribute to the life

of Virginia Priscilla Wooten. She touched our lives and our hearts, and she will be greatly missed.

#### CONGRATULATING JAMES L. ANDERSON

##### HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 2, 1999*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of James L. Anderson of Maine to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Mr. Anderson is a native of Brewer, Maine, and a graduate of Brewer High School. Like so many other residents of Maine, Mr. Anderson has served countless hours as a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, which was created by Congress in 1939 as a civilian, non-military division of the Coast Guard.

As one of the 35,000 men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Mr. Anderson has helped to save lives by teaching boating safety and ensuring that our waterways are secure from hazards.

In recognition of his service, commitment and outstanding leadership skills, Mr. Anderson has been elected Commodore of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's First District, which encompasses New England. The Change of Watch ceremony officially installing him into this prestigious role will be held on January 8, 2000.

For 60 years, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has assisted the Coast Guard and the boating public. The Auxiliary's work is based on four cornerstones: courtesy vessel examinations to ensure safety; educational activities including National Safe Boating week; operations support for the Coast Guard's non-military functions; and the fellowship engendered in the Auxiliary's activities.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak on behalf of all Maine citizens and those members of the Auxiliary who serve with him when I salute Mr. Anderson for his service to our nation and for his election as the First District Commodore. He will help to lead the Coast Guard Auxiliary into the 21st Century, and I know that the Auxiliary, the Coast Guard and the boating public will benefit from his efforts.

I am proud of the role that Mr. Anderson will be playing, and am pleased to offer my congratulations to him today. I know that my colleagues join me in saying to Commodore Anderson, "Welcome aboard, Sir."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 2, 1999*

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to unforeseen official business in my district, I was unable to cast my vote yesterday on H.R. 348, H.R. 2737, and H.R. 1710. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall vote 550: Yea; Rollcall vote 551: Yea; and Rollcall vote 552: Yea.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 2, 1999*

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 1999, I missed rollcall votes 550 to 552, due to a minor illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 550 and 551 and "no" on rollcall vote 552.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES ELLIOTT WILLIAMS, AN AMERICAN HERO

##### HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 2, 1999*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American, Medal of Honor Recipient James Elliott Williams, who recently passed away at the age of 68. The most decorated American serviceman of the Vietnam Conflict and the most decorated enlisted man in the history of the United States Navy, Petty Officer First Class Williams was truly an American hero.

A native South Carolinian, Elliott Williams began his twenty-year career in the Navy at the age of 16. During the Vietnam Conflict, commanding high-speed river patrol boats, known as PBRs, Elliott Williams exhibited great valor when faced with overwhelming forces. In 1966, Elliott Williams, without reinforcement, led eight men on two boats through intense enemy fire in a three hour firefight that resulted in the destruction of more than fifty-seven enemy boats, more than 1,000 enemy casualties, and the interception of classified documents. In 1967, just four months before Elliott Williams was to retire, the boat under his command and another United States boat was attacked along a branch of the Mekong River by four hundred soldiers from three North Vietnamese heavy weapons companies. While protecting the other boat, which was disabled, Elliott Williams continued to fight, even though he was wounded. The outcome of this incident was nearly forty enemy casualties and nine of their boats being destroyed.

For his service in the Vietnam Conflict, Elliott Williams received the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, two Silver Stars, the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He also served in the Korean Conflict.

After retiring from the Navy, Elliott Williams became the first United States Marshal to be appointed by President Nixon, in 1969. He served in a number of positions with the United States Marshals Service before retiring. He was also a Past President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Patriots Point Development Authority, in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Largely through the efforts of Elliott Williams, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society moved its headquarters from the *Intrepid*, in New York, to the *Yorktown*, at Patriots Point. In 1997, Navy